



May 20, 2019

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Five Big Supreme Court Decisions to Watch

The Supreme Court is set to go back into session on Monday to begin issuing some of its biggest decisions of the year. From high-stakes rulings for the Trump administration to revisiting battles over the separation of church and state, here are five big decisions to watch for. Census citizenship question: The Trump administration's efforts to add a question about citizenship landed in front of the justices last month, just weeks before the deadline to get the query added to the census. Opponents argue that asking about citizenship will cause noncitizens and other immigrants to skip the question or the census altogether, leading to an inaccurate count of the population. Census data is used to determine congressional representation as well as federal funding.

<https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/443169-five-big-supreme-court-decisions-to-watch>

FEDERAL

The Hill: Senate Dems Introduce Election Security Bill Requiring Paper Ballots

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and a group of 12 other senators introduced a bill Wednesday to mandate the use of paper ballots in U.S. elections and also ban all internet, Wi-Fi and mobile connections to voting machines in order to limit the potential for

cyber interference. The legislation would also give the Department of Homeland Security the power to set minimum cybersecurity standards for U.S. voting machines, authorize a one-time \$500 million grant program for states to buy ballot-scanning machines to count paper ballots and require states to conduct risk-limiting audits of all federal elections in order to detect any cyber hacks.

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/443809-senate-dems-introduce-election-security-bill-requiring-paper-ballots>

STATES

Alabama: House Committee Advances Bill to Clarify That Only US Citizens Have the Right to Vote

The Alabama House Constitution, Campaigns and Elections Committee on Wednesday advanced SB 313 and HB 596, companion bills that would clarify that only United States citizens have the right to vote in Alabama elections. Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh (R-Anniston) and State Rep. Arnold Mooney (R-Indian Springs) are sponsoring the legislation in their respective chambers. Mooney carried the bills in the House committee. SB 313 was unanimously passed by the Senate last week and is now line for final passage by the full House.

<https://yellowhammernews.com/alabama-house-committee-advances-bill-to-clarify-that-only-us-citizens-have-the-right-to-vote/>

(more)

Florida: Broward Elections Office Performs ‘Voter List Maintenance’

The Broward County Supervisor of Elections held a conference call Thursday to talk about the voter registration list maintenance process. The process takes place every two years and is designed to protect the integrity of elections. It began in March and will continue through the year. The process comes on the heels of multiple issues with ballot counting in the county during the November 2018 elections. Then Broward Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes was accused by former Gov. Rick Scott of fraud and incompetence.

<https://www.wfln.org/post/broward-elections-office-performs-voter-list-maintenance>

Florida: Gillum Gives Democratic Party \$100k to Register 1m Voters

Former Democratic candidate for governor Andrew Gillum was in Tampa on Thursday, pushing his effort to register one million new Democratic voters by the 2020 election. Gillum handed a large check for \$100,000 to Florida Democratic Party chair Terrie Rizzo and pledged another \$400,000 to groups around the state that help people of color register to vote. Gillum says the push for 2020 isn't just about gaining seats. The power to control the redistricting process will be based on the legislature's makeup, and that makes the election even more important.

<https://www.wfla.com/news/politics/gillum-gives-florida-democratic-party-100k-to-register-1m-voters/2006872337>

Florida: Russian Government Hackers Targeted Small Panhandle County in 2016

The voter registration database of a small county in the Florida panhandle was breached by Russian government hackers in 2016, according to two U.S. officials. The Russian military spy agency, the GRU, was responsible for the penetration of Washington County's database, according to the two officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter. The county

has a population of about 25,000. Carol F. Rudd, county elections supervisor, declined to comment on the breach but said it's important for federal, state and local officials to be able to communicate confidentially.

<https://wapo.st/2YDDIXp>

Indiana: Voter Fraud Case Causes Suspension from City Tow Contract

Kokomo business owner Allen Wilson is facing financial ramifications after voter fraud allegations were leveled against him in the lead-up to Election Day. The latest development in Wilson's situation was revealed Wednesday during a meeting of the Kokomo Board of Public Works and Safety, when Kokomo Police Department Maj. James Calabro read a memo from Chief Rob Baker requesting a suspension of his company from the call rotation within the city's towing contract. The memo cited the "voter fraud allegations" against Wilson and requested to the Board of Works a suspension of Competition Towing "while that investigation is pending."

https://www.kokomotribune.com/news/local_news/voter-fraud-case-causes-suspension-from-city-tow-contract/article_dc879464-7817-11e9-9fbc-47a6d9c449fa.html

Iowa: Governor Signs Laws Modernizing Mail-in Ballot Technology

A little-used technology that could have settled a disputed Northeast Iowa Statehouse race month earlier now will be required in every Iowa county under a measure signed into law Thursday by Gov. Kim Reynolds. The new law requires that envelopes containing absentee ballots for Iowa elections have bar codes that can provide mailing data affixed under the direction of local elections officials.

<http://bit.ly/2YGxsOV>

(more)

New Jersey: Councilman Loses Election, Goes Looking for Votes at 10:00 PM

A councilman who lost Tuesday's election went door-to-door after the polls closed looking for vote-by-mail ballots. After Harry Kumburis finished third in a four-way race for Cedar Grove's council-at-large race, doorbell video posted by the *New Jersey Globe* showed him on the porch of a resident just after 10 p.m. knocking on the door while holding a stack of papers. The resident did not answer the door. After Kumburis turned and walked away, the resident called police.

<https://nj1015.com/nj-councilman-loses-election-goes-looking-for-votes-at-10-p-m/>

Virginia: Dept. of Elections to Create Six New Jobs to Oversee Voter Registration, Train Local Registrars

Virginia voters are preparing to go to the polls in a few weeks for the primary election. Some changes will happen this summer at the Department of Elections to make sure everything goes smoothly when you register to vote in the coming months. Two jobs will train local registrars, two will maintain voter registration lists, and the last two will focus on making sure voters are assigned to the correct districts and polling places when they register. These new positions were created after an audit of the department released in September found the list of roughly 5.5 million voters is "mostly accurate," however, there were recommendations on how to maintain and improve the accuracy. For example, the report found overall the department "has not provided adequate guidance" to local registrars on how to "decide whether to add or remove a voter for the list." Also, the audit shows the department didn't historically have a staffer assigned to maintaining the registration list.

<https://www.wavy.com/news/virginia/va-dept-of-elections-to-create-6-new-jobs-to-oversee-voter-registration-train-local-registrars/2007599045>

Texas: House Committee Moves Forward Bill That Would Make It a Felony to Incorrectly Fill Out a Voter Application

The Elections Committee of the Texas House voted Friday to advance a controversial voter fraud bill that critics say could send people to jail for making an error while filling out a voter application. The committee approved Republican state Sen. Bryan Hughes' Senate Bill 9 on a 5-4 party-line vote two days after sitting through a lengthy testimony session dominated by groups opposed to the measure, according to the Texas Tribune.

<https://www.sacurrent.com/the-daily/archives/2019/05/17/texas-house-committee-moves-forward-bill-that-would-make-it-a-felony-to-incorrectly-fill-out-a-voter-application>

REDISTRICTING

Roll Call: Supreme Court Requests Response from Ohio and Michigan Gerrymander Challengers

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the challengers of congressional maps in Ohio and Michigan until May 20 to respond to requests from state officials to stop court-ordered redrawing of district lines. Lower courts found the maps were partisan gerrymanders, an issue the high court is now considering in two other cases. Republican lawmakers and officials in both states had argued that they did not have enough time to comply with recent federal court mandates to redraw their districts by June 14 in Ohio and Aug. 1 in Michigan.

<https://www.rollcall.com/news/supreme-court-issues-first-response-challenge-ohio-michigan-congressional-maps>